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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/698,554	10/31/2003	Alejandro Rossato	29498/38561A	9953
4743	7590	03/29/2006	EXAMINER	
MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP 233 S. WACKER DRIVE, SUITE 6300 SEARS TOWER CHICAGO, IL 60606			PUROL, DAVID M	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		3634		
DATE MAILED: 03/29/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/698,554	ROSSATO ET AL.
	Examiner David M. Purol	Art Unit 3634

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 January 2006.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-46 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1,15,16,20-31,35-42 and 46 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 2-14,17-19,32-34 and 43-45 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	_____ Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>02022004;05102004;08182004</u>	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Species III in the reply filed on January 9, 2006 is acknowledged. Inasmuch as the applicant has not stated on the record that the species are not patentably distinct the requirement is deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.
2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1,16,21,22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goebel. Goebel discloses a window covering including a pleated cover 22 having a rail 28,30 secured at its distal end and of which is adapted to encircle the pleated cover, and a tab 30 having a hole 32. The rail 28,30 as disclosed by Goebel is seen as responding to the claimed bottom rail inasmuch as the particular orientation of the temporary window covering is within the purview of the artisan having ordinary skill in the art.

3. Claims 15,20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goebel in view of Heimberg. While Goebel does not set forth the use of a band, Heimberg discloses a window covering comprising a band 27, wherein, to incorporate this teaching into the window covering of Goebel for its explicit purpose of maintaining the covering in a predetermined position would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

4. Claims 23-30,36-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cheng et al in view of Bohman. Cheng et al disclose a window covering comprising a pleated covering 13, a cord 17 secured to a top rail 14, and a bottom rail 19 having a slot 30 adapted to receive the cord 17. While Cheng et al do not disclose the slot as having a width less than the thickness of the cord, Bohman discloses a cord locking device which employs the use of a slot 5,10,12,35,36,56a,56b,65,85,95 having a width less than the thickness of a cord 2,32a,32b,52a,52b, wherein, to incorporate this teaching into the slot of Cheng et al for the purpose of facilitating the locking of the cord would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

5. Claims 31,42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cheng et al in view of Bohman as applied to claims 23-30,36-41 above, and further in view of Goebel. While Cheng et al do not disclose the use of bottom rail adapted to be configured in first and second positions, Goebel discloses a bottom rail 28,30 which is adapted to be configured in first and second positions, wherein, to incorporate this teaching into the window covering of Cheng et al, as modified by Bohman, for the purpose of housing the window covering would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

6. Claims 35,46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cheng et al in view of Bohman and Goebel as applied to claims 31,42 above, and further in view of Heimberg. While Cheng et al does not disclose the use of a band, Heimberg discloses a window covering comprising a band 27, wherein, to incorporate

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this teaching into the window covering of Cheng et al, as modified by Bohman and Goebel, for its explicit purpose of maintaining the covering in a predetermined position would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

7. Claims 2-14,17-19,32-34,43-45 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

8. The following prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Chen, Gehman, Robinson, Corey et al, Tu, Hsu.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to David M. Purol at telephone number (571) 272-6833.

David M. Purol
David M. Purol
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3634